(c) whether Government have received a number of representations and requests from various sections of affected persons for redressing their grievances for pensions;

(d) whether effective action has not yet been taken to direct the concerned department for following the rules of liberalised pension scheme of Government of India; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Cantonment Boards function under the overall control of the Central Government.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Representations were received for extension of ex-gratia pensionary benefits to the widows and dependents of the deceased retired employees of the Cantonment Boards who were subscribing to the Contributory Provident Fund; provision of pensionary benefits to the employees of the Boards who retired prior to 1st May, 1976 as well as expeditious finalisation of pensionary claims.

As per policy, employees of the Cantonment Boards who had retired piror to 1st May, 1976, are not entitled to the pension scheme introduced w.e.f. 1st May, 1976, as they had already been paid all the benefits admissible to them under the existing CPF scheme. A decision in the matter of ex-gratia payment to the deceased employees of the Cantonment Boards prior to 1st May, 1976 is linked with the financial condition of the Cantonment Boards. Necessary instructions have been issued by the Director General Defence Estates to the authorities concerned for expeditious process of finalisation of pension classes admissible under the rules.

Unserviceable tanks kept at Kirkee

2338. SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Armoured Fighting Vehicles (Tanks) of various types of 2nd World War Vintage held in unserviceable/beyond repair condition/obsolute type at Central Armoured Fighting Vehicle Depot (unfit vehicle park) at Kirkee;

(b) what is the total area occupied (both covered and uncovered) by these unfit vehicles;

(c) the establishment sanctioned for watch and ward and holding/stocking (store keeper and security) of these vehicles and what is the recurring annual expenditure for the same; and

(d) whether these equipments have any use in future and if not, the reasons for which these are kept?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There are 10 such Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFV) of Second World War vintage in Central Armouerd Fighting Vehicle Depot, Kirkee.

(b) These vehicles are occupying approximately 400 Sequare Metres of open space.

(c) No security personnel have been sanctioned specifically to guard these vehicles. The sanctioned securities personnel are for the security of the entire compound and holdings of the Depot. As such no extra expenditure is being incurred on guarding these vehicles.

(d) These vehicles have been earmarked for handing over to the War Museums for display.